

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00285 101305Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 101220Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8054

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 285

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE CRISIS: POSSIBLE APPROACH TO THE SHAH

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, CLOSE TIES HAVE EXISTED IN THE PAST BETWEEN THE SHAH AND FORMER PRES CHAMOUN. CONSIDERING THEREFORE THAT THE INTRANSIGENCY OF THE CHRISTIAN SIDE, PARTICULARLY THAT OF FORMER PRES CHAMOUN, IS PROBABLY THE MAIN REASON THAT THE LEBANESE CRISIS HAS NOW REACHED ITS WORSE STAGE, WE WONDER IF IT WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE TO MAKE A DIRECT APPROACH TO THE SHAH AT THIS TIME ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

A. THE U.S. IS FULLY AWARE OF THE INORDINATE EFFORTS MADE BY THE SHAH TO RESTORE PEACE IN LEBANON FOR WHICH THE U.S. AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN AVOIDING A MAJOR CONFLICT IN THE AREA ARE GREATLY APPRECIATIVE.

B. THE SHAH'S DEEP INSIGHT INTO THE PROBLEM AND THE USEFUL CONTACTS HE MAINTAINS WITHIN BOTH THE MOSLEM AND THE CHRISTIAN SIDES PLACE HIM IN AN UNUSUAL POSITION TO EXERCISE HIS INFLUENCE OVER A BROAD SPECTRUM OF THOSE INVOLVED.

C. IN ANALYZING THE LEBANESE CRISIS IN LIGHT OF ITS POLICY ADVOCATING POLITICAL SOLUTION BASED ON MODERATION, CONFIDENTIAL

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CILIATION AND COMPROMISE, THE U.S. HAS COME TO THE CON-

CLUSION THAT THE CHRISTIAN SIDE HAS IN GENERAL SHOWED IT-
SELF MORE INTRANSIGENT THAN THE MOSLEM SIDE. AT PRESENT MOST
INTRANSIGENT OF ALL, IT WOULD SEEM, IS FORMER PRES CHAMILLE
CHAMOUN. WE WONDER THEREFORE, IF THE SHAH'S EVALUATION
OF THE LEBANESE CRISIS CONFORMS WITH OUR OWN, WHETHER
THE SHAH WOULD CONSIDER ON AN URGENT BASIS EXERCISING HIS
CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE WITH A VIEW TO GUIDING PRES
CHAMOUN ONCE MORE ALONG THE PATH OF MODERATION AND THUS
CONTRIBUTE TO REACHING THE GOALS WE ARE CONVINCED THE VAST
MAJORITY OF LEBANESE OF ALL FAITHS DESIRE.
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT00285
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760009-1224
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760169/aaaacjbc.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE CRISIS: POSSIBLE APPROACH TO THE SHAH
TAGS: PINT, PINS, LE, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006